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PRACTICES COMMISSION

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Dear Commissioners,

I've been very disturbed by what I've been reading in the paper and while I rarely get very involved in politics, this time I felt I had to, as I understand you will be ruling on Terilyn Hanko in early July.

When Terilyn ran for office several years ago I voted for her and a whole lot of other people did too. I think she received 20,000-30,000 votes. She won by a huge margin which was no small feat since 5 people ran for the office this last time around. We all knew what she did for a living. She had it in her ballot statement and the local papers (who unanimously endorsed her) put her profession in their columns. That's why we voted for her. The hospital had candidates that they were backing-people who knew nothing about healthcare, but we wanted someone who understood healthcare, someone who cared about the community and would negotiate for our interests. And this time we won, or so we thought. Until all three of the board members who speak out on behalf of the community got banned from voting due to potential conflicts.

I know your desire is to protect the public, but you've done the opposite by preventing these three from participating. I'm sure it serves the Hospital's interest to keep them off the board, but it doesn't serve us.

Please allow Terilyn to vote and if you could reinstate Vince Muzzi and Dr. Schneider, that would be great too.

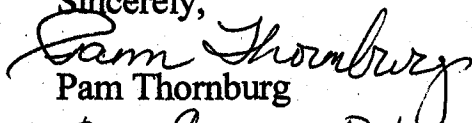
I've enclosed a news article that was recently published about another Doctor who wants to run. He does a good job discussing the situation here so I thought you'd like to read it. He sounds like a thoughtful person who I could possibly vote for this November, but is he going to be disqualified by your group too?

It appears that all the people who can most help the community during this healthcare crisis are being prevented from doing so.

Please let Terilyn get back on the negotiating team.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


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DOCTOR: Alper to make board run

Continued from 1A

discussions between Mills-Peninsula Health Services and its landlord, the district.

If both sides can agree, Mills-Peninsula would replace Peninsula Medical Center with a state-of-the-art acute care facility by 2013. The district would lease the publicly owned land for \$1 per year in exchange for the new \$350 million-plus hospital.

The Mills-Peninsula board has approved the plans, as has its corporate parent Sutter Health Systems. Now the details of the plan must be worked out between the Mills-Peninsula and the district — a seemingly never-ending task over the past two years.

Community members — as well as some district board members — have worried over the how much input the public would have over the hospital and its services.

Mills-Peninsula and the district have also been arguing over control of an office complex to be built adjacent to the hospital.

While the details are debated, overshadowing the negotiations has been an even larger problem: Three of five district board members have had problems with potential conflicts of interest.

because he owns a property near the hospital's proposed boundaries — Vice Chair Newman and board member Smith are all up for re-election in the fall. None have publicly stated whether they'll run again.

Alper has never run for a public position. Having served as a longtime community physician, author of numerous articles on health and health policy, a clinical professor of medicine at University of California, San Francisco, and a director of the medical knowledge base at First DataBank Corp., Alper has a history of service in the medical arena.

The political arena, however, "is a new realm for me," Alper

admitted. If he runs, he doesn't expect an easy slide into the role.

Based on his past observations, "I think it is fairly predictable that if I run the hospital will handpick the candidate, fund that candidate lavishly, provide administrative support and use the Friends of Mills-Peninsula to support the handpicked candidate for a guaranteed in-the-pocket vote on any controversial measure," Alper said. "If I would run they would probably prevail upon a doctor to run. I expect this to be a very difficult and painful ordeal."

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Alper finds flaws with the alleged conflicts of interest preventing the three from negotiating on the hospital.

"This entire thing is comical. It is a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, in which Dr. Schneider, who might get a tiny fee through Mills-Peninsula — and who in no way could affect his overall welfare by anything conceivably that he could vote on — is considered in conflict," Alper said. As for Terilyn Hanko — a sales representative who receives a yearly bonus from a pharmaceutical company that does business with Mills-Peninsula — "[The fact that] that would be a conflict is absurd."

The fact that Hanko and Schneider supposedly have conflicts, "when Dr. Don Newman, a retired physician who gets a monthly check from Mills-Peninsula 'doesn't have a conflict strains credibility,'" Alper said.

Newman and board member Sue Smith have been accused by many of being "loyalists" to the hospital, candidates hand-picked to represent the hospital's desires, while Hanko and Schneider are often seen as two who side with the community.

The argument over the hospital, "I think it's misportrayed," said Alper, as either "pro-hospital or anti-hospital. I see myself as pro-hospital and I also see myself as pro-community."

But when it comes to the hospital administration, "There is no appreciation for loyal opposition on any vote of any sort... I can't see how that would serve the community well," Alper said. It's become an "us vs. them" mentality, "which I find deplorable," Alper said.

There is some distrust in some things that the hospital management has done, putting some community members in a bind. If those people don't go along as foot soldiers, "then they're just looked upon as traitors," Alper said.

Among hospital administration, "I've seen signs of a somewhat cavalier attitude to certain real concerns," Alper said.

"I'm really trying to be a peacemaker, but the hospital does not take the position that blessed are the peacemakers."

District board Chair Vince Muzzi — who has a conflict